(b) if so, whether these deposits have not been touched for the last 10 years;

(c) whether these unclaimed deposits are not being used by the Banks;

(d) if so, whether Government propose any legislation for this investment; and

(e) what other steps Government propose to take to utilize these funds which are unclaimed for the last 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The total amount of money in unclaimed saving bank accounts of nationalized banks as on 31st December, 2003 is Rs. 291.87 crores approximately.

(b) and (c) The unclaimed deposits also form part of the amounts, which the banks can use for their general business like any other deposits.

(d) and (e) A proposal was made in the Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2003 for including a new Section 26A in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, which deals with the establishment of Depositor Protection Fund. As per the proposed amendment the amount to the credit of any account in India with a banking company or banking co-operative society which has not been operated upon for a period of ten years or any deposit remaining unclaimed for more than ten years shall be credited to the above Fund within three months from the expiry of the said period of ten years. The bill containing the above proposal was tabled in the Parliament on August 13, 2003. However, the Bill lapsed due to the dissolution of Parliament.

Housing loans to poor

2815. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to Reserve Bank of India, there are a number of home loans which have increased manifold in the last 15 years but the housing needs of the poor and lower income group have remain unaddressed;

(b) whether, according to the report of RBI on 'Trends and Progress' on banking, points out that clause of margin is one of the reasons for low financing to weaker sections;

(c) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to address housing needs of poor; and

(d) whether any concrete pogramme of action has been planned during 2005-06 for providing housing to the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the RBI report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India—2003-04, during the period 1993-2004, outstanding housing loans by scheduled commercial banks and housing finance companies grew at a trend rate of 23 per cent, higher than the trend growth rate of 14.8 per cent recorded in respect of scheduled commercial banks' non-food credit during the same period. Quoting another publication *i.e.* Economic and Political Weekly, May 2004, the RBI report has mentioned that although scheduled commercial banks as well as housing finance companies have led the robust growth in credit to housing sector since the late 1990s, the housing needs of the poor and low income groups have remained unaddressed. The RBI report has also mentioned that one of the reasons for low financing to weaker sections is the clause of margin. Further, the RBI report has mentioned that in order to solve this problem, NHB is promoting a separate entity India Mortgage Credit Guarantee Corporation (IMCGC). IMCGC will guarantee the payment of principal and interest by the borrower to lender, *i.e.* banks, housing finance companies. IMCGC will also mitigate the risk perception of banks and housing finance companies and enable them to expand further credit in housing sector.

(c) and (d) It has been the endeavour of the Government to ensure the availability of housing loans to various segments of the society specially the middle/lower income group and the rural areas. As per the Budget announcement 2005-06, the following initiatives are proposed to meet the housing needs of the poor:

* Bharat Nirman has been conceived as a business plan, to be implemented over a period of four years, for building infrastructure,

especially in rural India. Under the scheme it is proposed to construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor.

* Indira Awas Yojana is the flagship rural housing scheme for weaker sections. The allocation is being increased from Rs. 2500 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 2750 crore in BE 2005-06. About 15 lakh houses will be constructed during the year—2005-06.

DFID's assistance to control poverty

2816. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) has provided an assistance of Rs. 3,661 crore for various projects in India to control poverty; and

(b) if so, out of the above, how much amount has been given to Orissa to control poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There are 25 on-going projects, directly or indirectly linked with poverty alleviation, including projects in the social sectors, for which Department for International Development (DFID) of the Government of United Kingdom has committed development assistance of 1018 million pounds (approx. Rs. 8,150 crores). Out of this, an amount of 112 million pounds (approx. Rs. 900 crores) is towards such projects in the State sector for the State of Orissa. In addition, Orissa is also getting support under the central sector projects for poverty alleviation and social sectors for which DFID is providing development assistance.

Adverse impact of budgetary proposals on senior citizens and pensioners

2817. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his pragmatic tax proposals for 2005-06 have